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9 Attorneys for Defendant  
JASON EDWARD THOMAS CARDIFF  
10

11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
12 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
13

14 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

15 Plaintiff,

16 vs.

17 JASON EDWARD THOMAS  
18 CARDIFF,

19 Defendant.  
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Case No. 5:23-cr-00021-JGB

**DECLARATION OF STEPHEN R.  
COCHELL IN SUPPORT OF  
JASON CARDIFF'S *EX PARTE*  
APPLICATION TO RESET  
HEARING AS VIDEO  
CONFERENCE**

*[Filed concurrently with Ex Parte  
Application and [Proposed] Order]*

DECLARATION OF STEPHEN R. COCHELL

I, Stephen R. Cochell, declare as follows:

1. I represent Jason Cardiff in this matter. I make this declaration in support of Jason Cardiff's Ex Parte Application for an Order resetting the January 13, 2025 hearings and conduct oral argument on the motions in a video conference

2. Counsel has been monitoring the news of the wildfires in Los Angeles and which have apparently affected Riverside. The wildfires that have ravaged Los Angeles, have caused deaths, destruction of numerous homes, traffic backups (and abandoned vehicles) and pollution caused by smoke.

3. Counsel makes the request for a video conference because his airline tickets have him landing in Los Angeles as LAX on Sunday to assure that he makes the hearing on time. It is uncertain whether the wildfires will continue or even worsen in the Los Angeles area. To avoid any risk to health or safety, a video conference is in the best interest of both the Government and Plaintiff's counsel. A copy of the email exchange is attached to this declaration.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on this 9th day of January, 2025, at Houston Texas.

/s/ Stephen R. Cochell  
Stephen R. Cochell

Dated: January 9, 2025

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Stephen Cochell <srcochell@gmail.com>

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**Re: [EXTERNAL] Hearing on Monday**

1 message

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**Sebastian, Manu J.** <Manu.J.Sebastian@usdoj.gov>  
To: Stephen Cochell <srcochell@gmail.com>  
Cc: "Makarewicz, Valerie (USACAC)" <Valerie.Makarewicz@usdoj.gov>

Thu, Jan 9, 2025 at 12:43 PM

Stephen,

We cannot agree to a zoom hearing, but we understand the concern. We are amenable to a continuance to the next available hearing date, which appears to be Monday, January 27.

Best Regards,

**Manu J. Sebastian**

Trial Attorney

Consumer Protection Branch

U.S. Department of Justice

Office: (202) 514-0515

[manu.j.sebastian@usdoj.gov](mailto:manu.j.sebastian@usdoj.gov)

On Jan 9, 2025, at 12:57 PM, Stephen Cochell <srcochell@gmail.com> wrote:

In light of the fires raging in the LA area (and no end in sight), I suggest that we do the hearing by zoom.

Do you concur?

--

Stephen R. Cochell

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